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Patent

Attorney's Docket No. 001560-406

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)

Toshihiro MORI et al.)

Application No.: 09/974978 ~~Not Yet Assigned~~)

Filed: October 12, 2001)

For: HYDROGEN-ABSORBING ALLOY)
AND HYDROGEN-ABSORBING)
ALLOY ELECTRODE)

Group Art Unit: 1742 ~~Not Yet Assigned~~

Examiner: ~~Not Yet Assigned~~ TP

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified patent application please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace Claim ~~5~~ with the following and add new Claims 9-12:

B1 5. (Amended) A hydrogen-absorbing alloy according to claim 2, wherein the heat-treatment comprises solution treatment conducted for 1 min to 100 hr at a temperature range of from 700 to 1500°C, and one or both treatments selected from quenching and aging of from 350 to 1200°C after solution treatment.

B2 9. (New) A hydrogen-absorbing alloy having the composition according to claim 2, wherein the principle phase exists within the range where a body-centered cubic